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To: Microsoft ATR
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Subject: Microsoft Settlement

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I don't know to whom I would address this email.

I was told that I could express my opinion to the judge of the federal trial court considering this settlement by filing written comments with the United States Department of Justice by January 28, 2002.

I am an IT professional (Network Analyst) for a Bloomfield CT company (The J. M. Ney Co.) and have been so for years. I have been doing computer work for 2 decades and I have been following Microsoft's progress and practices since 1980.

Microsoft seems to be the proverbial "400 lb. gorilla". Since the early 90's I have been watching their business practices with fear and alarm.

Windows Operating System as a product or as an operating system was originally a very good idea. Touted as a "software bus", the concept was to have a platform the OTHER developers could write software for, to do specialized things, or to enhance the basic operation of the Operating System.

However, when some company wrote some software that used Windows and became successful, Microsoft would either buy the company, or compete with them, driving them out of business. This predatory stance coupled with the "Fear, Uncertainty and Doubt" that MS marketing would promulgate concerning NON-Microsoft products, AND the lack of access to the programming controls (the API's), would make many smaller companies fall by the wayside since just the fear of not being able to make a program work would cause many a consumer to purchase Microsoft products (instead of theirs) just because they might be less of a "hassle" to operate.

I think this may be the core of the "anti-bundling" argument: Microsoft just "assimilates" good products, and one way or the other quashes the smaller company. Why would a normal consumer buy an EXTRA program, from a smaller company, when Microsoft can just "incorporate" similar functionality into Windows and take the sale away from the other company?

Also, in a parting note: Why is it that every other component of the personal computer has gotten better AND cheaper, but Windows just goes up in price?

Thank you for reading this,
Mike Porzio